

# Annual Parish Meeting



Annual meeting will be held immediately following the 10:00 worship service on **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**.

At the annual meeting we will have Vestry Elections and you will find out about all the good works that Christ Church has been doing.

**The Men in Blue, the Vestry, Parish Life Committee and the Hospitality Committee will be providing a hamburger/hot dog luncheon.**

Please call or email the church office if you plan to attend. There is no cost for the luncheon, nor do you have to bring anything. We need an RSVP, to help with food planning to make sure we have enough to feed everyone who will attend.

**Please mark your calendar and plan to join us.**

Reports that were submitted electronically to the church office can be found below.

Interim Rector Report  
Annual Meeting: Christ Episcopal Church, Valdosta, GA, 8 Jan 2023



This paragraph from last year's report has been confirmed by your responses since our last annual meeting.

*You have a gracious, loving spirit that generates a positive, welcoming "tone" for someone new. You have a strong base of committed people with a healthy demographic of ages. Recruiting volunteers and team leaders is proving enjoyable and positive. . . . You have such amazing possibilities, possibilities that will prove quite attractive for a potential rector.*

Every community of faith has its unique strengths and weaknesses and its unique ambiance. Being rather personal and subjective, I've relished being among you and am thankful for how our stories, yours and mine, have interwoven. And, I'm thankful for your hospitality expressed in receiving me as you have.

This year I've focused in several areas. First, we completed a self study, Holy Conversations during Lent, being a major self study thrust. The Holy Cow survey complemented the conversations and provided additional data. We had a community forum to discuss the results and, we've continued to keep those reports before us in discussion and planning. I would encourage you to continue being informed by those reports as you begin with your new rector.

I've also focused on nurturing and developing our staff. We've met once or twice each month, worked through Strength Finder 2.0, and planned our work together. Another focus has been strengthening the vestry. We've read Kevin Martin's *5 Keys for Church Leaders* and discussed portions of. Another major focus has been to recruit lay leaders and form new teams (Adult Formation, College Ministry, Media, Newcomers, Parish Life, Preschool). Additional teams still needed include Outreach, Pastoral Care, and Youth and Children. We've had one quarterly leadership caucus thus far, a planning meeting that includes all vestry, staff, and team and committee leaders. A second happens next Sunday.

We've revived and strengthened live streaming worship through the efforts of the gifted and creative Media team. A generous gift underwrote upgrading lighting, purchasing new cameras and sound equipment and constructing a booth for live streaming worship. We've learned from COVID how essential reaching outside our walls will continue to be.

Interim Rector Report  
Annual Meeting: Christ Episcopal Church, Valdosta, GA, 8 Jan 2023

We have also focused on regathering from COVID and renewing some of our traditional practices like Foyer Groups and Octoberfest. We've sought to regather people in all our demographic groups through age-based social gatherings.

Among additional challenges, updating and repairing the organ remains to be done. We've lain some of the foundation for that work.

You walked with me through the diagnosis of metastatic prostate cancer and supported me during six weeks of radiation therapy at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. The vestry supported my going part time during that period, working remotely and being present to lead worship three Sundays out of the six. I will carry in my heart always your notes, words of encouragement, hugs, and your ongoing interest.

I have repeatedly experienced deep joy in being among you. Parish ministry has been a vital part of my life since being ordained as a young Baptist cleric in 1965. The last twenty-five years of Episcopal ministry have been especially fulfilling. Christ Church will be my last full-time interim work. At age 78, other priorities, among them several writing projects, are calling.

My ministry always has involved both the academic and parish worlds, sometimes teaching full time and pastoral ministry part time. At other times that has been reversed. Since 1965, I can count only 4.5 years without engagement in parish ministry. I still love and enjoy this work; but, the time has come to ease into other ways of engaging in the ministry of the Gospel.

Thank you for being such a loving and supportive and responsive people.

God's peace,



David W. Perkins+  
Interim Rector

## **Daughters of the King (DOK)**

Coordinator – Molly Stevenson  
(229) 292-8215 (call or text)  
[mollybs64@outlook.com](mailto:mollybs64@outlook.com)

[The Order of the Daughters of the King, Inc. \(www.doknational.org\)](http://www.doknational.org)

The St. Nino Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is an order of prayer and service at Christ Church. The DOK is a church-wide order whose mission is *“the extension of Christ’s Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism.”* It is our joy and privilege to offer prayers on behalf of anyone who desires them. Additionally, the group is committed to service, which currently mostly involves participating in MealTrains for folks.

An in-person Brunch Gathering/Meeting was held in May and another will be planned for Spring 2023 where we’ll enjoy the fellowship of one another and discuss additional potential opportunities for service. Anyone who may be interested in joining us is welcome. Newcomer’s classes will be scheduled accordingly.

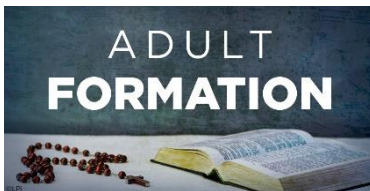
We remain committed to continued prayers for all who desire them. Please don’t hesitate to text or email me your prayer requests or MealTrain needs.

Molly



## **ADULT FORMATION**

Chair – Molly Stevenson  
(229) 292-8215 (call or text)  
[mollybs64@outlook.com](mailto:mollybs64@outlook.com)



The Adult Formation committee met early in fall to discuss opportunities for Christian Formation. The first event was the annual wreath making gathering on the first Sunday in Advent. Following that was Fr. Perkins’ study of Advent-related parables.

We’re in the process of creating a survey that will help us determine the best next steps to provide meaningful Christian Formation opportunities for all. Please take the few minutes to complete the survey when the link is sent to your email.

Molly

## (Foyer Groups, Stewardship Drive, Parish Life)

[jeanisynyard@gmail.com](mailto:jeanisynyard@gmail.com)

### FOYER GROUPS

Foyer groups FINALLY got revived as of October 2022, after a three year hiatus. There are currently six active groups with 8-10 members in each group. Each group has a leader that encourages attendance and continuity. The purpose of these groups is to get to know members of the church better, by meeting in different homes once a month for fellowship and a meal. The host provides the entree and the others bring the sides. If you are interested in joining a group, please let me know.



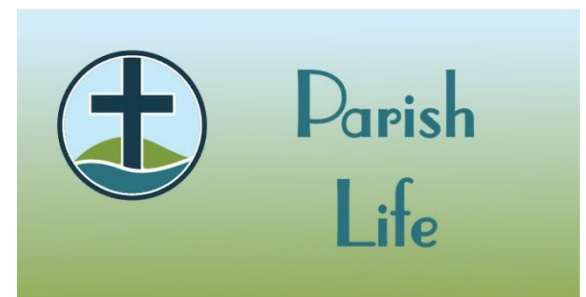
### STEWARDSHIP DRIVE



The 2022 Stewardship Drive got underway in September by having a representative from various funded groups in the church explain the impact and importance of pledging in order to sustain their particular mission. In October we had our annual "We Love Christ Church" banquet at the Turner Center for the Arts, where we had more encouraging speakers. As of this writing, we are still behind our goal - which was to reach (or surpass) last year's numbers. However, in this year of transition, I am very proud of the response we have had. Thank you to EVERYONE that pledged, and a BIG thank you to our bookkeeper, Amy Creasy, that always does an excellent job of keeping us informed.

### PARISH LIFE

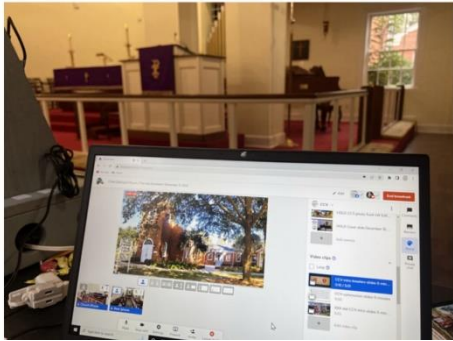
Parish Life is a new group that Father Perkins put together to make sure that we revived, continued and started new parish life activities. I chair the committee which consists of Molly Ferrier, Paul Stevenson, Jeri-Lyn Flowers, Kirk and Stephanie Rosenlund, Matthew Wilkin, David (Sandy) Sandbach. We have put together the parish picnic, Oktoberfest, the Thanksgiving dinner in the Parish hall, this annual meeting meal, and have plans for a Fat Tuesday party and (hopefully) a Honey Creek retreat in the spring. A HUGH thank you to Pat Denmark - who always seems to make our plans happen, and to the Men in Blue, who never disappoint. Please let me know if you have any ideas, thoughts or questions.



## Media Ministry Annual Report for 2022

December 20, 2022

Larry Wisenbaker, Ken Rumstay, and Julius Ariail



The media ministry broadcasts worship services to Facebook and YouTube, archives recordings of those services online, and creates extracts such as sermons and offertory music from those recordings as requested. Publicity about these activities is coordinated with the parish administrator, and includes “coming soon” posts on Facebook and YouTube, notices in the Friday email bulletins, and emails on Sunday mornings as an alert about the imminent start of the broadcasts. In addition to these congregational communications, the media team also sends out regular messages

to its members with an after-action report on each broadcast, “lessons learned” about various technical aspects, and status summaries of upgrades.

Audiences for the livestream broadcasts and the recordings include those unable to come to church because of illness, those who have moved away but still wish to remain connected to Christ Church, those who have temporary schedule conflicts or other obligations that make it impossible to attend a service in person on a given date, and those who are “visiting” before deciding to attend in person. There is also a significant number of people who attend in person but who like to use the



recordings to listen to the sermon or other parts of the service again as a personal devotional practice. Currently between eight and twelve people are watching the livestream broadcasts each week, and approximately 100 people watch at least part of the recordings afterwards. This set of archived recordings now contains over 100 worship services and other events dating back to March 29, 2020.

With the permission of the vestry and encouragement by Fr. Perkins, livestreaming resumed on January 23, 2022 after being paused in July, 2021, awaiting the arrival of an interim rector. Since then, we have transitioned from broadcasting directly to Facebook with one camera to utilizing two cameras and Streamyard, a streaming management program, to broadcast to both Facebook and YouTube simultaneously. Using Streamyard allows us to include one or both camera views in the broadcast at different times, thus providing some variety in the resulting video. Streamyard also provides the opportunity to integrate still photography, video slide shows, and banner texts within the broadcast and to record and download a video file or a separate audio file after a livestream has concluded. Much of our work during this year has been to explore the options within Streamyard, and to resolve technical challenges in using our current set of equipment as they arose from week to week.

Currently six people are members of this ministry activity. We did have a display table at the fall activities fair, but did not entice any new members to join the team. We hope to recruit more volunteers and eventually establish a set of four two-person teams, each of which can operate the equipment and livestream a service once a month on a rotating basis.

## Media Ministry Annual Report for 2022 – (continued)



At the same time that live streaming was ongoing using the current set of equipment, we also explored adding new equipment to move to a higher standard of broadcasting. Connecting this new equipment meant that new audio, video, internet, and electrical power cables would have to be installed. Central to this upgrade was the concept of building a media booth in the rear of the church to house the new equipment and to give us a better vantage point of the worship services in progress. Thanks to a generous donation by a donor, we were able to purchase this new equipment, arrange for

the installation of new cabling, and build the media booth without impacting the existing church budget. Work is now well underway to move into the new media booth, to complete the connections for the new equipment, and to learn how to use it. Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, marked the first time that we livestreamed a worship service from the media booth using the two new video cameras and their control board. On that same day we also used the booth and its new equipment to record a music recital which was posted online later. We plan to continue these upgrades and add more team members as the media ministry moves into 2023.



## Stitchers of Love

The Rev. Dcn. Patricia Marks and Julia Ariail, co-chairs

*Stitchers of Love*

Christ Episcopal  
Church

Valdosta, GA



The Stitchers of Love is a group of members and friends of Christ Episcopal Church who like to create knitted and crocheted items for others in need. The group meets at the church parish hall on the 1st and 3rd Sunday afternoons from 4 - 6 p.m. enjoying working together improving skills, sharing patterns, and teaching newcomers.

Some of this year's projects included pocket prayer shawls, pocket prayer squares, small knitted and crocheted stuffed animals, large and small baby blankets and hats, Christmas wreath ornaments, large prayer shawls, blankets, twiddlemuffs, and baby toys that were blessed at the altar of Christ Church.

The group provided these items which were distributed by the Rev. Deacon Nancy Sartin to people in South Georgia Medical Center as well as to Jacqui Thigpen who took them to a hospice house where she volunteers. One of the members of the Stitchers group, Patricia Seco Cordova, crocheted a blanket for the son of the new homeowner of the Habitat for Humanity house built by Christ Church members. The group is co-chaired by the Rev. Deacon Dr. Patricia Marks ([spmarks@bellsouth.net](mailto:spmarks@bellsouth.net)) and Julia Ariail ([juliacariail@gmail.com](mailto:juliacariail@gmail.com)).



## Ushers

Len Carter, Usher Coordinator

[lencarter@bellsouth.net](mailto:lencarter@bellsouth.net)

229.560.0673

The Usher Committee is currently composed of 17 members who usually work one Sunday per month to provide services for the 8 and 10 AM services. Services include greeting attendees, passing out weekly bulletins, assisting with seating, collecting offerings, and taking oblations to the altar. In addition to Sunday worship, we also provide ushers for other services such as funerals and sometimes weddings.

We can always use new members. Besides providing the above, it's a good way to meet your fellow church family and, more importantly, greet newcomers, as we are their first impression of Christ Church.



If you have any interest serving or have any questions, please give me a call.

Len

## Newcomer Team

Martin Holland, Team Leader

[martinholland@gmail.com](mailto:martinholland@gmail.com)

770-605-2461



The newcomer team welcomes visitors to Christ Church and helps new members integrate into the life of the parish. We began (or, really, restarted) our work in August. Since then, we have reinstated the practice of assigning a greeter to each 10:00 A.M. service. This greeter keeps an eye out for visitors and welcomes them. Greeters also hand out gift bags to visitors; a team member designed a special, Christ Church-themed gift for these bags. Team members additionally redesigned our visitor cards and welcome literature. Newcomer team members regularly follow up on every visitor card with at a telephone call on Sunday afternoons. We also help to connect visitors and new members with Christ Church ministries that interest them. In the coming year, the newcomer team plans to offer fellowship dinners to newcomers. We will also help to facilitate the Episcopal 101 class.

## Hospitality Committee

Pat Denmark, Team Leader

[Lalalu43@yahoo.com](mailto:Lalalu43@yahoo.com)

229-251-4964

The Hospitality Committee has:



- Provided 48 coffee hours
- Provided refreshments for seven funerals, 150 Year Celebration, Annual Picnic, Thanksgiving Day dinner, and lunch for 125 medical students and their advisors.
- We feed lunch to the Dave Clark Build for the Cure volunteers each day of the build for one month.
- Set-up and take down for other church events, (i.e. Lenten dinners, church breakfasts, Octoberfest).
- Additionally we continually replenish the kitchen supplies and check that all items are with-in date, made sure appliances were in working order, and washed over 200 tablecloths plus towels.

## Choir

Sue Ellen Rumstay, Music Director

[rumstaysue@gmail.com](mailto:rumstaysue@gmail.com)

229-630-6508



We have had a wonderful year with choir. We have added some new anthems to our repertoire. We have enjoyed solo work from Chris Rutland, Hanae Kanno, and our choirmaster, Issa Young. We have enjoyed having parishioners Al Turner, Steve Taylor and Rachel Rumstay share their instrumental talents. Easter featured a brass quartet to add to the festivities, and at our Christmas Eve service we hope to have a string trio or quartet to bring us beautiful prelude music. The oboist for the Albany Symphony Orchestra just recently shared in one of our Advent anthems. Our annual Sound of the Seasons, organ and harp recital took place on December 18th.

As we end the year and look forward, we are thankful for the Christ Church's support of the music program. It is a honor to work with our faithful choir. I hope in the year to come others will consider joining choir. We have a great time every Wednesday night and Sunday morning.

Sue Ellen Rumstay,  
Music Director

## Christ Church Preschool

Elise Sandbach, Director

[Sandbach1@bellsouth.net](mailto:Sandbach1@bellsouth.net)

229-630-4738

The Preschool started off our second year after Covid with a Luau. We welcomed new and prospective families. There were games and activities in each classroom. We drew names for a free month's tuition.

In October we visited the fire station. We celebrated Halloween with trick or treating with the office staff. We continued with songs for parents and a party.

Thanksgiving was celebrated with more singing. Our focus was on being thankful and caring for others. We collected can goods and walked together to the United Way to place them in their pantry.

We celebrated Christmas with a program in the Parrish Hall. Each class had a party and activities in their own classroom.

We have lots planned for the remainder of our school year. We will have a Pajama day, celebrate Valentine's Day and Dr. Seuss' birthday. We plan on visiting Fifth Day Farms. There will be an Easter egg hunt and a family fun night in the spring. We will end with our end of year program for parents.

We love to see the progress our students make as the year progresses. We are thankful for our families and the support from Christ church.



## Children's Ministry

Keri Wilkin, Interim Director

[kwilkin83@gmail.com](mailto:kwilkin83@gmail.com)

229-412-5630



My name is Keri Wilkin and I am the Director of Children's Ministry. I am responsible for staffing the nursery on Sunday's and any other events when nursery is available. I also teach children's church on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 service for ages 3-5th graders.

In 2022 aside from weekly children's church we had many gatherings and activities. Some of these events included: annual Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Camp for Jesus, movie days, kickoff Sunday, Trunk or Treat and the 2nd annual Children's Christmas Parade party.

The Summer Camp for Jesus, in June was a great success. Instead of the normal bible school activities the children participated in community service projects. It's my hope that the camp is even bigger this year.

Future plans include children's church, seasonal parties for children and families, and community outreach sharing the love of Jesus through projects that the children can participate in.

## Episcopal Youth Community (Middle and High School Youth)

Joel Williams and Chris Rutland, Interim Co-Directors

[christopher.t.rutland@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.t.rutland@gmail.com), [will1756@bellsouth.net](mailto:will1756@bellsouth.net)

229-561-5071,



The Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) ministry of Christ Church exists to engage our middle and high school students in the life of the parish. Since taking on the job of interim co-directors in Q4 2022, we've set about this goal in three main areas: fellowship, spiritual formation, and service.

**Fellowship:** The primary youth fellowship time is our weekly meetings (Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:00 in the Youth Room in the Gabard Building). We typically share a meal and either discuss what's going on in the lives of the students, play a game, or another activity. Additionally, we have hosted social gatherings including a kickoff pizza party and an ice cream social. In 2023, we plan to continue our regular meetings as well as to schedule fun activities periodically.

**Spiritual Formation:** During the regular EYC time, we also incorporate a brief "lesson." We typically choose topics that highlight the sermon from that morning, relevant feast days/liturgical seasons, or both. In 2023, we plan to continue including a spiritual learning element in our meetings.

**Service:** Christ Church is a parish for which service is very important, and it's never too early to teach these values to our youth. In Q4 2022, hosted a trunk at the Halloween "Trunk or Treat," served as acolytes during Sunday services, and raised over 900 dollars during the VSU graduation parking fundraiser. For 2023 we will continue with periodic service activities as well as encourage/facilitate our youth's regular participation in the other ministries of the parish.



We deeply appreciate the support we receive from our parish and look forward to continuing to serve in 2023.

## College Ministry (Grace Café)

Charles "Chip" Whiting, Director

[chpwhiting@outlook.com](mailto:chpwhiting@outlook.com)

229-474-5588



Grace Café is a space of fellowship, prayer, and service for the Valdosta college student population. Housed within Louttit Hall, Grace Café's mission is to share Christ's love with college students in Valdosta. One of the ways we are doing that is by addressing food insecurity among college students. Grace Café can do this because of the love and support from the parishioners from Christ Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Georgia. Within Grace Café you will find a calm, relaxing, and welcoming environment where students can come to shake off the worries from outside and feel God's love. Students come to the café to study, relax and recharge, pray, get coffee and snacks before going to class, and for fellowship. Grace Café provides all the snacks, coffee, donuts, and food from our food pantry for no charge. Our motto is: it's not cheap . . . it's free! Grace Café also hosts a free meal for all college students, Thursday Dinner, once a month.

## College Ministry (Grace Café) – Cont.

Grace Café reopened in August 2021 after the COVID-19 Pandemic and we began to rebuild the college ministry, advertising to students, and ensuring the college community in Valdosta there is a place they can call home. The college ministry is run by Charles Whiting aka Chip, the Director of College Ministry, plus a team of five interns: Abigail Easton, Maya Jones, Jacob Alward, Demonta Barrino, and Jean Lopez. Throughout this year we have had a few interns graduate, and some part ways from the college ministry. We recently, Fall 2022, had an intern quit mid-semester and move out, which left us in a tight situation when it came to staffing the café. Charles took on extra hours to make up for any instances where there would not be two interns on duty. Our newest addition to the team is Maya Jones. Maya is a graduate student, and she will be joining us in January 2023 for the spring opening of the café. We have two positions available for the girl's house, we currently have an applicant who is interested in becoming an intern in the Fall of 2023 but are looking to fill the positions ASAP.

Grace Café has seen an increase in attendance since its reopening in the Fall of 2021. With the costs of living continuing to rise, we seen the impact we have on the college community here in Valdosta. We have had over six hundred students come to the café in 2022, and students are finding out about us daily. Many have seen the flyers we have posted up around campus advertising the café, some have come with friends, and others have come to the café out of curiosity due to our neon coffee and open signs. We've also been mentioned on social media, where students are encouraging others to come to the café. In February 2022, Charles was invited to be a panelist in the Freedom to Xchange forum to represent the Episcopal College Ministry. This forum was a great way to collaborate with other campus ministries to spread the word of God and get the word out about Grace Café. Following this event, Grace Café restarted Thursday Dinner.



This year Thursday Dinner has fed two hundred and twenty students. We've held Thursday Dinner twice in Spring 2022 and twice in Fall 2022. The highest attendance for Thursday dinner was our last one in Fall 2022 with seventy students in attendance. Grace has hosted three Thursday Dinners in the Parrish Hall and one within Grace Café. We are looking forward to the coming semester where we will be hosting four Thursday Dinners in total.

Grace Café is planning to reach out to VSU's student life in January 2023 to promote the college ministry by giving out donuts and coffee on the VSU pedestrian mall, a few times during the semester. We are also seeking out ways that we can advertise to the college communities of Wiregrass Tech and Georgia Military College. We will be starting up board games and movie nights at the café to give students another way to relax and have fun and fellowship during the semester.

## Parish Administrator, Property Manager, Communication & Media Director

Kim Dudley

[office@christchurchvaldosta.org](mailto:office@christchurchvaldosta.org)

229-242-5115



This has been a year full of transitions, if we stop and reflect, each year is full of transitions. The thing we can plan on is change. It is all in how we handle that change. Christ Church is handling this transition in stride. Sometimes our stride stumbles, but we get back on our feet and keep moving forward.

As your Parish Administrator, Property Manager, and Communication & Media Director, many hats are worn, but they all intermingle in some form or fashion.

Parish Administrator - Answer phones, create and distribute weekly Sunday bulletins, prepare bulletins for weddings and funerals, prepare and post special event sign-up sheets, manage Lay Reader, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Coffee Hour, and Altar Guild schedules, record memorials and honorary gifts and send thank you notes, distribute Vestry Minutes prior to Vestry meetings, maintain Parish Hall usage and scheduling calendar, maintain Constant Contact and use for weekly email bulletins, and church functions, keep supplies updated and restocked for office and parish hall, order seasonal church items, keep records for pre-school (registration, applications, waiting lists, and employees).

Property Manager - Schedule repair crews, manage monthly, quarterly or yearly building maintenance for six buildings, oversee cleaning crew and maintain cleaning supplies. Perform minor maintenance repairs. Install new equipment when needed.

Communication & Media Director - Maintain and update Church Website, post on social media (Facebook) install new software as needed.

In 2023 we will continue the above mentioned items, as well as bringing back the TV announcements that are broadcast on the TV in the Parish Hall for parishioners to view while they mingle during Coffee Hour. Hopefully 2023 will bring some consistency to Christ Church with a selection of a new Rector.